PUDUKKOTTAI STATE
WAR INFORMATION BUREAU

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LECTURE XXXII.

COMMERCE AND WAR RISKS.

THE ECONOMIC WEAPON IN WAR.

1. Reference is constantly made in the House of Commons to such subjects as—'American exports to RUSSIA'—'A sensation is caused at the news of rice rationing in JAPAN'—'A Far-Eastern Government Conference meets in DELHI'—'Hitler reiterates that the Germans were not beaten in 1918 but starved into surrender'—and so on, and so on.

2. In this paper, I propose to try and show why so much newspaper space or public debate is consumed on subjects such as these

3. Trade is the life-blood of nations. Hardly a country in the world is even approximately self-supporting. A nation must buy abroad with cash or credit, or it must send its own products abroad in exchange for what it needs. If it has more to sell than it need buy, it will become economically powerful. If two countries have more to sell than to buy, they become rivals. They may be peaceful rivals, or they may fight each other, as the Portuguese and the French and the Dutch and the British did in INDIA. If they happen to be at war for any other reason, you may be sure that they will wage a commercial as well as a military war.

4. ENGLAND after centuries of adventurous exploiting, pioneering and fights by land and sea, an economically powerful country, has not been particularly pugnacious in her trade rivalry. She was the champion for half a century of Free Trade, that is to say, universal exchange of goods at a reasonable profit on the cost of the main factor without any desire to discriminate against certain imports or protect certain exports. But her great mercantile position made other nations, jealous and envious. Some of these, such as AMERICA or FRANCE, would settle animosities arising from trade rivalry by negotiation. Others, such as GERMANY, were not content with peaceful methods, and she waged one grim war and is waging another not only to capture from ENGLAND her trade, but to eradicate all chance of her rivalry in commerce henceforward.

THE BLOCKADE.

5. Trade implies long sea-voyages, charted routes, harbours, railroad services for those harbours and above all ships. Ships with valuable cargoes require protection from known rivals or from free booters. Such powers as can afford them therefore, build navies, fleets of armed ships as opposed to unarmed freighters, and the larger the merchant fleet and the wider their lawful occasions, the more powerful the navy required. BRITAIN, as the greatest trading country, has for long had the biggest navy, and in addition to protecting her own vessels has also done a lot of what might be called international marine police work, because she has been so interested in the safety, not only of her own vessels, but of that of other countries' vessels with cargoes for ENGLAND. Without pretending that BRITAIN has been particularly altruistic, hundreds of nations have benefited by this protection, the trade of half the world has been secured by it. But if BRITAIN is at war, the function becomes a powerful weapon. Her enemies' trade must suffer, and only the trade of neutrals or her allies is in any measure secure. Conversely, attacks on BRITAIN's trade and its 'Police Escort' endanger the trade of a hundred nations. Commercial warfare is 'on' and the technical paraphernalia of marine belligerency, summed up by the word 'Blockade' comes at once into play.

6. We must spend a moment on 'Blockade'. In a major war like the present one, the belligerents try to exercise and enforce certain rights which affect vitally the freedom of trade. We call these 'the right of blockade.' The term is taken from the phraseology of land-warfare

which implied originally the effective encirclement by an army or navy of a beleaguered town or fort, and the cutting off of all means of succour, mainly in the shape of the necessaries of life. During the Napoleonic wars, ENGLAND tried for the first time the huge experiment of preventing supplies reaching FRANCE and the countries in alliance with her by sea. Napoleon retorted by the 'Continental System', by which he tried to compel all the countries of EUROPE not to trade with ENGLAND. The former was successful; the latter fizzled out. A sea power prevented ships arriving, a land power could not prevent ships sailing. Successful or not, blockade is never popular, least of all with civilians and neutrals whose necessary supplies are thus interfered with. But belligerents MUST USE it, and so in 1909, the Declaration of LONDON, the offspring of the HAGUE Conference, sanctioned only the stoppage of sea-borne supplies within a few sea-miles of an advertised port; beyond that range interference at sea would be piracy. It tried also to draw a distinction between military and civilian needs, and attempted to classify cargoes into contraband and legitimate articles of trade. Only the U. S. A. ratified this pronouncement, and on the outbreak of war in 1914 it was immediately found to be impracticable. ENGLAND struggled for sometime to follow its provisions, but it led to nothing but acerbities between ENGLAND and the neutrals, especially the U. S. A. Fortunately ENGLAND was relieved from the intolerable position into which well meaning International jurists had landed her by the decision of GERMANY *to sink all ships travelling to England* indiscriminately. The result was that the U. S. A. came into the war, and a more rational realisation of the legitimate possibilities of blockade came to belligerents and neutrals alike. To-day we have heard little of such complaints, beyond an initial 'grouse' from AMERICA in the early months of the war.

CONTROLS DURING THE WAR IN 1914 TO 1918.

7. When nations are thus at war *commercially*, Governments have found themselves forced to resort to 'administrative' measures at home rather than appeals to a wraith called International Law. Hence the control of this and the control of that, of food, (in order to regulate prices, or impose rationing); of finance (to prevent fearful people hastily transferring their investments and other assets to a safer zone and thus impoverishing the country); of shipping (to prevent waste of freight-space on luxury or other unnecessary goods, when all cargoes should be either munitions or civilian essentials). Lord Davenport and

Lord Rhondda were the big names of the last war; Lord Woolton, Sir Robert Kingsley and Ronald Cross of this. Such forethought and fore-provisioning is necessary to guard against break-down resulting from occasional intensified enemy offensives, such as occurred between 1915 and 1917, and again at the end of last year. In the former a breakneck submarine campaign was instituted by the Germans. During 1914 British and neutral shipping losses averaged 55,000 tons per month. It was the enemy reply to a blockade of German ports by our Navy that was becoming unbearable. February 1917 saw the beginning of the new and more intensive submarine campaign by the Germans, which met with such success that the average monthly loss was nearer 200,000 tons. "Within a few months the submarine blockade became a greater danger to the Allies than the surface blockade was to Germany" said Sir Arthur Salter at the time. So serious was the menace, that some new way to meet it had to be devised. The Convoy system was tentatively tried, but with indifferent success. Far more effective was the formation of the Ministry of Shipping with a Shipping controller who had a seat in the cabinet, with statutory powers, and a Tonnage Priority Committee in 1917. Then in 1917, AMERICA entered the war. Our finance problem was thereby eased, but ships were required to transport her armies also, and a greater effort for their safety was imperative. The Convoy system as we know it at present, was with difficulty built up, and it was a great success. But the problem had ceased to be departmental. It was national. The big control departments for the first time began to hold a series of consultations with the object of reducing excessive demands on the shipping department; final authority was vested in a cabinet committee, with very wide powers. Further, in order to co-ordinate the activities of all the Allies, an Allied Shipping council was formed.

8. I have dealt in some detail with what happened during the last war, as the problems of commerce during war time presented themselves then in all their complexity. The experience gained at that time has proved invaluable, and as soon as this war broke out, the machinery for dealing with the anticipated problems came into existence almost automatically. There was no groping, no hesitation as before. The old Board of Trade had learnt its lesson. It immediately created an Export Council, to which it delegated many of its old powers. At the same time several new Ministries were created, which are playing an important part in this war.

9. First in importance of these is the Ministry of Economic Warfare (M. E. W). Commercial and financial experts man it, and though merely an advisory body, (it has no executive functions as in the Totalitarian States), it is the directing brain behind much of the military, naval and aerial strategy. For instance, while GERMANY bombs towns in BRITAIN indiscriminately, with the vague hope of handicapping munition-production, she is being disagreebly shocked to find that the counter-bombings of the R. A. F. have a big idea behind them. When U. Boat sinkings increase from about 50,000 to 165,000 tons as they did between 15th to 22nd September 1940, the M. E. W. passes an urgent note and the R. A. F. raids U. Boat bases. Next week the sinkings drop to about 70,000 and odd; in the week following, to about 30,000. More important, perhaps, is the M. E. W. habit of selecting suitable targets for the further dislocation of the already creaking German machinery of land and river transport, and of directing the Empire bombers to the great enemy places of production and storage. The other control Departments that regulate our commercial warfare, are the Ministries of Supply which undertake the vast world-wide purchase of munitions and raw materials for them, the Ministry of Food which concerns itself with the import, storage and equitable distribution of food, and our old friend, the Ministry of Shipping.

WAR RISKS.—(1) Raiders.

10. What are the risks incidental to commerce, and how are they met? The first is of course the surface navies of the enemy, the Fleets of GERMANY and ITALY. Neither of these can face a naval engagement. Thanks to our Navy, they have mainly to hide in fortified ports. Every now and then, however, one or other of the German cruisers or 'pocket battleships' slips out to sea, and takes a heavy toll of merchant shipping. They are heavily armed, most of them having 11 inch guns, while the British cruisers which guard the convoys (under the Washington naval agreement) mount only 8 inch guns. Moreover we have not enough warships proper to guard every trade route, so that we have had to arm fast merchantmen to do escort work. These are of course even now heavily outgunned in any engagement with a large raiding warship. No doubt the sinking of the *Graf Spee* was an epic of its kind, but victory was due to our sailors' superior daring and tactics, rather than to the inherent armament strength of the ships themselves. During the last war the *Emden* and the *Karlsruhe*

sank 32 Allied merchant ships of tonnage amounting to 159,547 tons, between August and November 1914. The *Graf Spee* had been able to sink only 9 ships of 50,089 tons. But there are other raiders of its kind about, with changing names or silhouettes, which still appear suddenly, do their fell work, and dart off in the night. One such sank 6 ships off MADEIRA on 6—2—41, another is supposed to be operating in the Pacific, and recently bombarded Nauru island, flying the Japanese flag.

Convoy.

11. The selected method of defence against surface raiders (apart from the merciless hunting down of them as we did to the *Graf Spee*) is to strengthen the escort of the convoy by more heavily armed ships, and at the same time to use scouting aircraft. That this has been efficacious is proved by the infrequency with which large raiders now appear. Moreover, reconnaissances by air, from hundreds of allied bases on the trade routes, frequently detect the departure of suspicious vessels from so-called neutral ports, warn the escorts or nearest patrol flotillas, and prevent the raiders from receiving the very necessary fuel supplies in mid-ocean. A wide extending of the Navicert system (inspection of manifests and certificates of exemption granted at hundreds of ports of departure) also assist to make the raiders' life a far from happy one.

(2) The Submarine.

12. Having discussed the surface-raider, we must now turn to another method of waging commercial warfare, a method which is apt to frighten the public rather more than it ought to, namely, the submarine menace. When, as in the last war, it was a new device it created a panic in 1917, and it was with difficulty mastered. The tonnage of merchant vessels lost in the Great war of 1914 to 1918 is given below :—

	British Empire.	France.	Total of Allies and Neutrals.
1914	252,738	14,414	319,400
1915	885,471	93,987	1,312,216
1916	1,231,867	169,829	2,305,569
1917	3,660,054	459,454	6,078,125
1918	1,632,228	178,107	2,528,082

13. The Germans made a considerable effort by submarine to cripple our merchant navy, and frighten off neutrals from carrying for us. We had weeks in which the total losses sounded alarming, 200,000 tons for instance. Then the Convoy system began to tell, and the menace died down. With the Fall of FRANCE the Germans took full advantage of more numerous Atlantic bases, and in October and November the attacks became more savage and serious. Once more we took the measure of them and average weekly losses for the last two months have only been in the neighbourhood of 30,000 tons. Even at this rate however, the loss is rather serious. It has been computed that if BRITAIN and her allies have lost a total of 3 million tons during the war, they have replaced over one million by new construction and purchase. That leaves two million tons to be made up, unless our sea-traffic is to be permanently reduced, which we cannot afford. On the other hand the submarine effectiveness is not more than one tenth of what Hitler expected, and announced in his speech at the Sportpalast in BERLIN, and we may take his threat of a greatly intensified campaign at least partially as an attempt to warn the American mercantile marine of the risks involved in helping BRITAIN.

Defence.

14. Since it is such an outstanding feature of commercial warfare let us make a short investigation of the actual shipping position. The British Minister of shipping has confessed to fairly heavy losses, as we have shown above, but I protest against the tendency to suggest that he does not tell us the whole truth. There is absolutely no doubt that **every ship sunk is reported, and absolutely correct figures are given.** That was so in the last war, and is so now. There is of course a far greater demand for freight-space, but in the British tonnage figures alone there is actually no reduction from the total at the beginning of the war. There definitely was a perceptible falling off in the last war, but this time the Government took over shipbuilding as a national concern from the outset, and a steadily expanding programme of ship-building is being adhered to. In addition the U. S. A is building 200 ships in its yards for BRITAIN, while BRITAIN also has, under International Law, the right of requisitioning neutral ships in its ports, and either of paying the freight or of taking over the ships at a valuation. The Minister of Shipping has also stated that he has got his eye on the neutral ships in the U. S. A. ports, and that he stands

convicted of the guilt of coveting them! It seems quite possible that negotiations for turning these over to BRITAIN will materialise. Nevertheless, we have to emphasise that **what might be more than enough in the** piping times of peace, does not suffice to meet the heavy demands of war. Sir Arthur Salter, the Parliamentary Secretary to the Ministry of Shipping, (the writer of the articles on Shipping in the Encyclopaedia Britannica, and the recognised authority on all shipping matters) speaking in the House of Commons on 18—3—40 admirably summarised the difficulties of *allocation* of shipping in war, even if BRITAIN were able to replace every ship lost.

(1) Navigation under war conditions reduced importing capacity.

(2) A great number of ships has to be *withdrawn from importing capacity* for naval and military work (Eg. *The Rawalpindi*).

(3) In peace time BRITAIN has 1/3 of her imports brought in *neutral* tonnage, and naturally cannot expect as much by neutral tonnage under war conditions.

(4) It is inevitable that *additional quantities* of raw materials should be brought in for war manufacture.

(5) The need to obtain imports from *more distant sources of supply*, eg., timber, bacon, and dairy produce from the Empire instead of from the Baltic.

(3) Danger from Air.

15. The next weapon of Commercial warfare we must discuss is in a different element. The Germans have long pinned their faith to the dive-bombers as an aid to the strangulation of commerce, and the world watches with interest the result of a now ancient controversy about the relative merits of the aerial bomber *versus* the battleship. On one testing ground, the English Channel, the battle was fought long and bitterly last autumn, and the aeroplane lost it, and to confirm this has come the recent fate of a daring attack by GERMAN dive-bombers on the '*Illustrious*' and '*Southampton*' in the Sicilian narrows. The danger cannot be said to be past, but it is at least doubtful whether the enemy will think the expense worth while for very long, so deadly accurate are the Navy's own air-arm and anti-aircraft armament.

(4) Mines.

16. Another war risk, and the last, that we must refer to is the mine, fixed or floating. The HAGUE Conference has laid down certain rules for the laying down of mines. (1) Mines should not be laid round the coasts of the enemy with the sole object of intercepting commercial shipping (2) The danger Zones should be notified to the world. Both these rules have been violated flagrantly by GERMANY. England still staunchly notifies all shipping of any new fields she has had to lay. The enemy tried to go one better with his invention of the magnetic mine, boomed its paralysing and invincible nature, trapped a few ill-fated vessels with it and has found it mastered by the British invention of the Degaussen anti-magnetic belt. Mine fields continue to be laid by both sides in strategic positions, so as to hamper and endanger large concentrations of naval and mercantile shipping, but escort through the charted channels is still possible for innocent vessels.

BLOCKADES HOW FAR SUCCESSFUL.

17. Such are some of the weapons of Blockade, which is a useful general term for the offensive aspect of commercial warfare. Both BRITAIN and GERMANY maintain that they have established a Blockade. We hope we have shown that the former is effective, and the latter at best only spasmodically and partially successful. Now let us see what steps the Axis powers are taking to offset much of the effects of the British strangle-hold at sea.

18. GERMANY and ITALY, one of which actually experienced an economic blockade during the last war, while the other was so indignant and frightened by the threat of economic sanctions in 1935, began to study the defensive aspect of commercial warfare; they began to devise ahead some means of mitigating the proved power of an effective blockade by sea. GERMANY adopted Marshal Goering's Four Year Plan, which ITALY has attempted to copy. The main features of the system are (i) the Reichmark was not to have international value since it would be affected by foreign exchange, but was merely to be used as local (and, with luck, continental (?) currency. (2) In external trade they were to rely mainly on the exchange of *goods*—the barter system. (3) Local substitutes had to be found for essential raw materials from abroad. So GERMANY set up huge factories for production of synthetic petroleum, substituted buna for rubber, and attempted in all ways

possible to become self-contained, by the invention of 'Ersatz' products. This was called the theory of Autarky—self-sufficiency, but as A. G. B. Fisher points out it is truer to call this half-baked, false, economic theory 'autarchy'—the power to control ones own destiny,—at the sacrifice of the States coming within the orbit of the Reich. Hitler stated in his proclamation to the 1938 Nazi Party Congress that; 'The efforts to make GERMANY capable of standing on her own feet have met with complete success...........The idea of a Blockade of GERMANY can now be buried as a completely ineffectual weapon.' But that GERMANY is daily feeling more painfully the coil of economic blockade is proved by the fact that in the occupied countries the Germans are forcing their Marks on them at face value, which according to their own original theory, must mean little or no value! Indeed, the conquest of DENMARK, NORWAY, and the virtual occupation of RUMANIA have been dictated much more by economic reasons than by purely strategic ones. Her 'Ersatz' products have proved uneconomic. They are not as efficient as the natural products. The clothing of her citizens is deplorable, to take only one instance, which explains GERMANY'S evident anxiety to get cotton and wool from RUSSIA. Her trade agreements with RUSSIA and BULGARIA and RUMANIA, sound well enough, but the Barter principle has grave drawbacks. GERMANY may and does want to exchange goods which *other countries* don't want, for goods essential to GERMANY, *which they cannot share.* It is when such peaceful means of subsisting break down, that we hear of the Troop Movements to such and such a frontier.

19. As a scheme for economic defence, these tactics merely won't work. Much less will they work when the great desiderata include just those articles which the enemy want most—oil, for instance. No, GERMANY'S economic defensive must be a failure.

The alternative is simply military aggression, and this we shall see in plenty. But it will be a military offensive against countries which *themselves are liable to the same economic offensive which we are waging against Germany.* The stranglehold that forces GERMANY into further aggression, into further hatred from suppressed peoples, into further 'dispersal of force', that stranglehold must also choke their victims, reduce to a nullity their productivity, until the whole Nazi edifice crashes, as it did—for the same causes in the last war.

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

13—2—41 to 19—2—41.

THE WAR OF NERVES.

APART from the military operations in AFRICA and ALBANIA the events of the week are best described as a war of nerves. The meeting between Hitler and the Yugo-slav ministers, the Turko-Bulgarian agreement, the 'cultural' pact between HUNGARY and BULGARIA, and 'trade' negotiations in the FAR-EAST, are all parts of a single central design to play on the nerves and increase the tension. They are the application of the old Nazi technique of bullying small nations into acquiescence by bribes, threats, and offers of economic and territorial gains at the expense of others. This vicious campaign is now in full progress in the BALKANS and the FAR-EAST.

RUMANIA.

The conversion of RUMANIA into a German base now proceeds apace. Besides an army of some 60,000 men, and a large number of planes which have already arrived, CONSTANZA has been declared a danger zone, and a general black-out has been ordered. The oil-fields are guarded in view of possible raids, and 50 pontoon bridges are said to be in readiness to enable troops to cross over to BULGARIA. BRITAIN has declared RUMANIA an enemy country for purposes of contraband.

BULGARIA.

In BULGARIA roads, railways, and bridges are being strengthened, petrol dumps laid and food distribution organised.

THE TURKO—BULGARIAN PACT.

It is also to be feared that the pact concluded on Friday between TURKEY and BULGARIA may lead to mischief. Superficially the pact claims to promote trade and amity between the two countries, and emphasise a policy of non-aggression in foreign affairs. Its most sinister aspect, however, is that it makes no mention of what either country would do if GERMANY should invade GREECE through BULGARIA. RUSSIA is a consenting party, and the Germans claim that the agreement rules out Turkish action in the event of a German advance. One

favourable point is the proviso that existing treaties with other countries will not be affected. TURKEY has already entered into a friendly alliance with BRITAIN. Moreover, talks of a rapprochement between TURKEY and BULGARIA were initiated in December with BRITAIN'S knowledge, and the British Military Mission that lately left ANKARA must be cognizant of the conclusion of the pact.

YUGO-SLAVIA.

It is not known what transpired when the Prime Minister and the Foreign Minister of YUGO-SLAVIA met Hitler on Friday at BERCHTESGADEN. According to a BERLIN announcement, which is, of course, meant to mystify 'there were no immediate results.' According to the *New York Times* the meeting was held to sign the Axis Pact. A BELGRADE message states that YUGO-SLAVIA was tempted at the meeting by the offer of the DRIN and Lake Ochrida areas in ALBANIA, together with a 20 mile corridor to SALONIKA.

OTHER BALKAN MATTERS.

(1) Trade negotiations between RUSSIA and BULGARIA started on the 17th.

(2) All Rumanian officers in London, except six minor officials have resigned, instead of returning to RUMANIA as ordered.

(3) Antonescu has issued a decree prohibiting the formation of any new political parties. A fresh out-break of rebellion in RUMANIA is reported.

(4) The Danube has frozen and burst its banks. 30,000 people have evacuated their homes. A 10 mile barrier of ice blocking the river is being bombed.

THE FAR-EASTERN SITUATION.

JAPAN is now not only playing the game of 'bloodless intimidation' in the East, but it is to be feared/is also preparing for an offensive, which may synchronise with a German offensive in the West in the spring. Japanese troops have been stationed in CANTON, WAICHOW ISLAND, the SISHA ISLANDS, the SPRATLY ISLANDS, FRENCH INDO-CHINA and FORMOSA.

The language of Matsuoka, JAPAN'S Foreign Minister, is clumsily deceitful. At one time he states, 'I want to make it clear that JAPAN does not want to risk war for the sake of her aspirations', and at

another moment shifts his ground saying, 'If AMERICA is determined to prevent JAPAN from carrying out her plans for a greater EASTERN-ASIA, JAPAN must oppose AMERICA even by entering the European War.'

When Admiral Nomura, the new Japanese Ambassador at WASHINGTON, called on President Roosevelt during the week to present his credentials, the latter made it clear that there existed a 'serious strain' in the relations between JAPAN and the UNITED STATES, which may lead to the wars in EUROPE and CHINA being blended in a 'single struggle.' "We are in the war. At least we are nearly in it. We are preparing for it" declared Mr. Jesse Jones, U. S. Secretary for Commerce when testifying before the Banking Committee of the House of Representatives. A 'Keep-Out' warning against ships and aircraft visiting the American naval out-posts in the Pacific and the Caribbean has been signed by President Roosevelt.

The ministers of AUSTRALIA and NEW ZEALAND have issued separate statements that the war has reached a new stage involving 'the utmost gravity'. Australian troops have landed at SINGAPORE, and its waters have been mined. Americans and Britons in the FAR EAST have been advised by their respective Governments to return home, as a precautionary measure.

Thailand is no doubt most frequent in its protestations of 'most cordial' relations with BRITAIN, but has become suspect since she accepted arbitration from JAPAN. The *Daily Telegraph's* correspondent cabled from SINGAPORE on Feb. 11 :—

THAILAND is being dragged unwillingly but inexorably into the Japanese orbit. During a fortnight's visit to Bangkok I saw the **familiar totalitarian technique in full operation**.

Japanese goodwill emissaries were roaming the country, dinning the gospel of the new order into Thai heads, and incidentally getting the lie of the land. THAILAND is not Japan's yet. British influence is still strong, and is backed by powerful reinforcements along the frontier of Northern MALAYA.

However I see little likelihood of effective Thai opposition to Japanese military pressure, if it comes. If there were such resistance it would be symbolic only.

THAILAND's airfields, which dot the whole country, would be of the greatest value to the Japanese for preparations against SINGAPORE, and as bases for harassing BRITAIN's lines of communications in BURMA and the Indian ocean.

NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES.

JAPAN has resumed her trade talks with the NETHERLANDS EAST INDIES, and is prepared, despite her allegiance to the Axis, to recognise the Netherlands Government in BRITAIN.

A Commercial Treaty, between RUSSIA and JAPAN is being negotiated in connection with the oil concession in Sakhalien and the fisheries. Mr. Matsuoka states that while he is at war with the Comintern he is friendly to the Soviet.

AMERICAN OPINION.

The opinions of the two representative Americans, Mr. Harry Hopkins and Mr. Wendell Willkie, leave no doubt as to where American sympathies lie. 'I don't think Hitler can lick the British. The English are as tough a crowd as I think there is. With the help of this country there is no question but that ENGLAND will win the war, and it is not going to be a stalemated war'—these were the first words of Mr. Harry Hopkins as soon as he returned home from his recent tour in BRITAIN. When giving evidence before the Senate Foreign Relations Committee Mr. Wendell Willkie stated that immediate help should be rendered to BRITAIN, even by sending destroyers, if possible, in disregard of all 'rigmarole of dubious legalistic interpretations.' AMERICA must stand united before the world as the friend of democracy. Even the opponents of the Bill should approve it. A policy of isolation would destroy Civil liberty.

LEND AND LEASE BILL.

The Senate's Foreign Relations Committee passed the Bill on the 13th by 15 votes to 8, in substantially the same form as the House of Representatives had shaped it, and the Senate has taken it up immediately for discussion. Opening the debate, Senator Barclay, Democratic Leader, said that if Hitler won he would control all EUROPE, and if Mussolini survived he would control all AFRICA.

FOOD-RELIEF.

A nation-wide appeal signed by a hundred prominent Americans has been issued to ensure and organise food-supplies to BRITAIN. It states that the UNITED STATES must become not only the arsenal but also the larder of the democracies.

In recommending this aid to BRITAIN, Mr. Herbert Hoover in his broadcast speech of the 16th has also outlined a plan for feeding the Nazi occupied countries, on the ground that they were also 'free-people' who should be allowed to live. He has advocated an initial experimental help to BELGIUM, by establishing soup-kitchens for a million adults and 2,000,000 children, amounting to 50,000 tons of food monthly. This would be distributed by a neutral body, after taking necessary assurances from GERMANY that it would not be misused. The question is whether this help is really needed, in view of GERMANY'S boasts that she has enough food to distribute, and whether it would be safe for BRITAIN to relax the blockade, and thereby give a chance to the enemy to engage in more loot. Mr. Hoover's plan, again, is only experimental and has not been made with the approval of the American Government. The plan is under the consideration of the British and German Governments.

Startling instances have come to light of German control of defence industries in U. S. by taking out patents and entering into cartel arrangements.

Five big U. S. rubber companies have refused to export any more rubber to the Axis countries.

ITALY.

The objects of the Mussolini-Franco meeting at BORDIGHERA on the 12th, and of the Franco-Pétain meeting at MONTPELLIER on the 13th are not known. The latter is stated to be a courtesy visit.

THE PARACHUTE ATTACK.

It is significant that at a time when General Wavell is marching towards TRIPOLI, a number of British parachutists were recently dropped in Southern ITALY to demolish certain objectives. Though the British communiqués refuse to make further comments on the event, it is learnt that the attack has suspended goods traffic throughout Southern ITALY. The insinuation that it was intended to damage the Apulian aqueduct must be an Italian invention to account for internal sabotage.

WAR IN AFRICA.

Libya.—Free French forces advancing 600 miles from CHAD have engaged the Italians in the KUFRA oasis. The JARABUB oasis—150 miles south of TOBRUK has also been attacked.

Eritrea.—EL-GHENA 30 miles south-east of KARORA in N. ERITREA has been taken. ADAGA has been bombed.

Anglo-Egyptian Sudan.—Here KURMUK, an important post at the frontier has been re-captured, and the country has been rid of the last Italian.

Italian Somaliland.—AFMADU, the seat of the Italian Govern ment, and KISMAYU, the third largest port, have been captured and the British forces have crossed the Juba river. The British are now in possession of 10,000 square miles of Italian SOMALILAND, an area of the size of WALES.

Abyssinia.—According to the latest communiqué, DANGILA and other important posts in the GOJJAM area have been taken, with the assistance of the patriot troops.

THE ROMANCE OF THE AFRICAN WAR.

Three stories of audacious bravery of British soldiers in the African deserts, which have been disclosed during the week, are given below :—

1. One of them is the story of the 'Long Range Desert Group', consisting of a few Australian and British soldiers, who in defiance of heat and sand-storm made reconnaissance over a thousand miles, and, wormed out the secret of ITALY's intention to attack Upper EGYPT. They also probed Italian defences, sabotaged preparations, shelled and captured isolated posts, blew up dumps and burnt grounded aircraft.

The second relates to the British Military Mission in ABYSSINIA, whose object was to effect contact with Ethiopian chiefs, and supply them with arms and munitions. Aware of their presence, the Italians set a heavy price on the head of the leader of the Mission. But undaunted the Mission entered ABYSSINIA within two months of the outbreak of the war with ITALY, and eventually established itself on the GOJJAM escarpment. At one time the members had to scramble down a ravine for safety, but finally, breaking the Italian cordon that tried to encircle it, it has now become strong enough to defy the Italian authority in the region.

The third story relates to the Free Ethiopian Newspaper called *Bandarachei* (Our Flag), now printed in the forests of GOJJAM in the most romantic circumstances. It is the achievement of a Young British Officer who, to begin with, carried with him a printing press, staff and accessories on the back of 60 camels, and printed and distributed the Emperor Hailé Selassié's proclamation. He has now established himself in GOJJAM, and brings out a paper regularly, which Abyssinian boys armed with rifles and spears distribute to village populations.

Albania.—General Caballero, Italy's commander in ALBANIA, has obtained notoriety as the 'butcher-general' for his cruelty to his men and the population in the war zone. All his 50 counter-attacks have ignobly failed. On Thursday the Greeks started a fresh offensive along a length of 80 miles from Lake Ochrida to the Adriatic. The capture of VALONA is delayed only by the severity of winter.

BRITAIN.

In a broadcast which was addressed to Australian workers on the 17th, Mr. Ernest Bevin pointed out that the measures now undertaken to regulate labour in BRITAIN should not be called conscription but registration. From the general manager of a factory, right down to the lowest worker, there was the feeling that every one should give his or her best to the country, but they did not know what to do, and where to go. Hence the need for registration. 'The kind of profiteer or economic vulture that operated in previous wars was tabooed by the public—he was outlawed.'

Mr. Arthur Greenwood, Minister without portfolio is examining post-war problems and plans for a better Britain, such as the demobilisation of the fighting men after the war, reorganisation of agriculture, re-housing and re-building. As the excess profits duty, which is now 100 per cent., leaves no balance for changing over industries to peace-time work it is proposed to reserve 50 per cent. of the duty for post-war reconstruction.

WAR AT SEA.

Six ships in a British convoy are reported to have been sunk on Wednesday between MADEIRA and the AZORES. The passengers were given no chance to escape; it was sheer murder.

AIR-RAIDS.

The British raids of the week have been mainly over North-east GERMANY, HOLLAND, NORWAY and DENMARK. There was a terrific attack on BOULOGNE on the 14th, which has been described as of 'nightmare proportions'! On Saturday British bombers dropped leaflets in the KATOWICE and CRACOW areas in POLAND, flying 1,800 miles to and fro.

In the Mediterranean, the Dodecanese Islands have been battered, the worst sufferer being the island of Cos. Five to ten deaths due to starvation are reported daily from these islands.

There were 63 raids on MALTA during 11 days closing with the 17th, including 6 raids on Sunday alone.

R. A. F. Raids over GERMANY, GERMAN-occupied EUROPE, ITALY, ITALIAN AFRICA and ALBANIA.

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
10—2—41. (Monday).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	Docks, shipping and dockside buildings at DUNKIRK, BOULOGNE and CALAIS.	...	Direct hits on shipping; buildings damaged; very heavy damage. 3 planes.
	Offensive sweeps over the FRENCH coast.	1 plane.	...
NIGHT :—			
	GERMANY'S vital railway and industrial centre at HANOVER.	...	Heavily damaged.
	Oil installations at the docks at ROTTERDAM.	...	Explosions followed fire.
	Several targets in North-west GERMANY.	...	...

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
10—2—41.	**(Monday)**—*cont.*		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE—*cont.*		
	Two aerodromes in HOLLAND ...	...	Damaged.
	The harbour at BOULOGNE ...	...	...
	CHERBOURG and **OSTEND** ...	4 planes.	...
	Aerial combat off the East coast ...	...	2 planes.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Aerial fight over ASMARA ...	...	2 planes.
	Military objectives at AFMADU ...	...	...
	A motor transport yard at ASMARA ...	...	...
	Stores in a wood and railway tracks near CHEREN.	...	Fires started.
	Native troop concentrations in the KALAN area.	No loss.	...
	ALBANIA.		
	The road from ELBASAN to VALONA.	...	...
	The town and the harbour at VALONA.	...	...
	The Italian positions and rear lines between ELBASAN and the front.	...	...
	RHODES Island.		
	Hangars and administrative buildings at MARITZA.	...	...
	Aerodrome at CALATO. ...	...	3 planes on the ground set on fire.
	Aircraft and buildings at KATAVIA, TEPELENI and DEKI.	...	Explosions and fires started.
11—2—41.	**(Tuesday.)**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	Industrirl targets at BREMEN, HANOVER.	...	Explosions followed fires.
	Oil installation at ROTTERDAM ...	...	Heavy explosions started.
	Shipping at CHRISTIANSUND (in NORWAY).	...	...
	A Sea plane base at JUTLAND ...	1 plane.	3 planes.

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
11—2—41.	**(Tuesday)**—*cont.*		
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	The military aerodrome at ADDIS ABABA.	...	Buildings and hangars hit.
	Motor transport convoys on the road between CHEREN and ASMARA.	...	Convoys machine-gunned.
	A stores dump North-east of CHEREN	1 plane.	...
	SICILY.		
	Aircraft on the ground at CATANIA ...	...	4 planes on the ground destroyed. Fires started.
	Aerodrome at COMISO ...	No loss.	Big fires started.
	ALBANIA.		
	Enemy positions north of KLISURA ...	...	...
	Aerial combat over KLISURA ...	...	1 plane.
12—2—41.	**(Wednesday).**		
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	A railway station, dumps, motor transport and gun positions in the CAEREN area.	...	Hammered.
	Military stores at ORTI ...	...	...
	Warehouses and other military targets at ASSAB.	...	Fires started.
	Buildings at AFMADU ...	...	Destroyed.
	A number of lorries between JELIV and BRAVA, BENGHAZI.	No loss.	set on fire.
	RHODES Island.		
	The naval harbour at RHODES ...	...	Fires started and damage heavy.
	ALBANIA.		
	Hangars and other aerodrome buildings at TIRANA and DURAZZO.	...	4 planes on the ground at Tirana destroyed.
	Military concentrations and buildings at ELBASAN.	...	Damaged.
	Aerial fight over the BERAT Area ...	2 planes.	2 planes.

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
13—2—41. (Thursday.)			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	The harbour and lock gates at DEN HELDER.	...	A supply ship directly hit.
	The Docks at CALAIS ...	...	...
	An Enemy tanker off the NORWEGIAN coast.	...	Set on fire.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	The Railway station at CHEREN ...	...	...
	Enemy troop concentrations near Mount AMBA.	...	Heavy casualties.
	Administrative buildings at BARDERA.	...	Water works damaged.
	ALBANIA.		
	Aerodrome at TEPELENI ...	...	Fires started.
	Military camp and a motor transport column at DUKI.	...	...
	Military concentrations south of DUKI	No loss.	1 plane.
	DODECANESE ISLANDS.		
	Aerodromes at KATAVIA and CALATO	...	Seriously damaged.
	MIDIBAY	...	1 plane.
14—2—41. (Friday).			
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	DAY :—		
	GERMAN Invasion bases along the FRENCH coast between CALAIS and CAP GRS NEZ.	...	Explosions heard. The whole coast-line a sea of flame.
	NIGHT :—		
	HITLER'S Invasion bases along the FRENCH coast including BOULOGNE.	...	The French coast 'a grandstand view of aerial fire-works.'
	Industrial targets in the RUHR ...	...	...
	Aerodromes in North-west GERMANY and HOLLAND.	...	Damaged.
	Oil plants at GELSENKIRCHEN ...	...	Fires started.
	The inland port of DUISBERG—RUHRORT.	...	...
	Docks at OSTEND ...	No loss.	Heavy loss.

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
14—2—41.	**(Friday.)**—*cont.*		
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	Merchant ships in the central MEDITERRANEAN.	...	1 ship sunk.
	ALBANIA.		
	Enemy concentrations in the area north of TEPELENI.	...	Heavy casualties.
	Gun emplacements, moving motor transport columns, tented camps and military buildings on the road between BUZI and GLAVE.	...	Heavily damaged.
	Gun positions at KAMSHISHT village	...	Machine-gunned.
	Supporting the advancing Greek forces.		
	TIRANA and **ELBASAN** ...	...	...
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	One point in the Railway in the CHEREN region.	...	...
	Aerodromes at ZULA and ASMARA	...	2 planes.
	An enemy camp at DANGHILA ...	...	...
	DODECANESE ISLANDS.		
	Buildings at LINDO harbour ...	...	Fires started.
15—2—41.	**(Saturday.)**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
	Oil installations, an inland port and aerodromes in the Western RUHR.	...	Many large fires started.
	The port at ROTTERDAM ...	...	...
	Docks at BOULOGNE and CALAIS ...	2 planes.	Many fires started.
	Leaflet raid over KATOWICE and CRACOW areas in POLAND.	...	...

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
15—2—41.	**(Saturday)**—*cont.*		
	ALBANIA.		
	Military camps, supply dumps, gun emplacements, main roads, motor transport and mule columns in BUZI area.	...	...
	Offensive patrols over the TEPELENI area.	...	Heavily damaged.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Pontoon bridges, wire entanglements and block-houses in Italian SOMALILAND.	...	Heavy damage.
	A motor transport on the MERCA-BARDERA road.	...	3 lorries destroyed.
	Native levies on the OMO river delta.	...	Fires started.
	A large motor transport in ABYSSINIA.	...	Heavy loss.
	Enemy troop concentrations, motor transport and other objectives in ERITREA.		
	SICILY.		
	Hangars and Administrative buildings at CATANIA.	...	Aircraft on the ground destroyed. Several fires and explosions started.
	Aircraft on the ground at COSIMO ...	...	Set on fire.
	The aerodrome at GELA ...	...	...
	A beacon station at CAPE PASSERO...	...	...
	ITALY.		
	Hangars and Administrative buildings at BRINDISI.	...	Heavily damaged. Set ablaze.
16—2—41.	**(Sunday.)**		
	GERMANY and GERMAN-occupied EUROPE.		
DAY :—			
	The quay and a vessel moored alongside at HELLEVOETSLUIS.	...	...

Date.	Targets.	Allied aircraft & R. A. F. losses.	Enemy aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
16—2—41.	(**Sunday.**)—*cont.*		
	GERMANY and GERMAN—occupied EUROPE—*cont.*		
	Shipping off the DUTCH coast ...	...	...
	Targets at ZEEBRUGGE, MIDDLEBURG and DEN HELDER.	...	Damaged.
	ALBANIA.		
	Enemy positions in BOZI Area (north of TEPELENI).	...	...
	Gun positions and military buildings at Buzi.	...	Buildings gutted.
	Enemy troops, vehicles and motor transport concentrations at LAUIZA.	...	...
	Retreating enemy columns and motor transport on the KLISSURA-BERAT road.	...	Serious loss. Heavily damaged. 1 plane.
	ITALIAN AFRICA.		
	Enemy barracks and buildings at GELIB.	...	Fires started.
	Offensive reconnaissance east of JUBA river.	...	...
	Aerial combat near GURA and CHEREN.	...	Many planes shot down.
	Aircraft on the ground and stores at CHINELLI (ABYSSINIA).	...	...
	Aerial fight over BENGHAZI ...	...	1 plane.
	A merchant vessel off the coast of TUNIS.	1 plane.	The vessel sunk.
	Hangars, buildings and work shops at ADAGA (ERITREA).	...	Heavily damaged.

Enemy Raids over BRITAIN, BRITISH Territories, GREECE and Greek-occupied ALBANIA.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R. A. F. & Allied aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
11—2—41. (Tuesday).			
	BRITAIN.		
	No enemy air activity.		
	GREECE.		
	FLORINA and **JANNINA** ...	4 planes and many destroyed.	A few civilians killed.
12—2—41. (Wednesday).			
	BRITAIN.		
	MORNING :—		
	Eastern SCOTLAND ...	1 plane.	No damage.
	NIGHT :—		
	No air raid.		
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA ...	...	Slight damage.
13—2—41. (Thursday).			
	BRITAIN.		
	NIGHT :—		
	LONDON area; **a town** in North-east SCOTLAND and **other places** in Eastern ENGLAND.	...	Houses damaged; casualties few. Little damage.
14—2—41. (Friday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
	DAY :—		
	DOVER area ...	1 plane.	...
	NIGHT :—		
	LONDON area ...		Many fires broke out.
	A point in North-east SCOTLAND and KENT.	...	No damage or casualties.
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA ...	...	Negligible damage. Driven back.

Date.	Targets.	Enemy aircraft losses.	R. A. F. & Allied aircraft losses and results of air bombardment.
15—2—41. (Saturday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
	DAY :—		
	East SCOTLAND and the East ANGLIAN coast.	...	Little damage and a few casualties.
	KENT coast ...	2 planes.	2 planes.
	NIGHT :—		
	A number of points in the North and East of ENGLAND, LONDON area and North-east of SCOTLAND.	3 planes.	Total damage slight. Some houses damaged and fires started, casualties few.
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA (3 raids) ...	...	...
16—2—41. (Sunday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
	DAY :—		
	South Coast ; **3 points** in a LONDON Area and **some places** in South-eastern ENGLAND and the HOME COUNTIES.	1 plane.	Slight damage and a few casualties. Some houses damaged.
	NIGHT :—		
	A North-east Coast **town** and EAST ANGLIA.	...	Neither damage nor casualties.
	MEDITERRANEAN.		
	MALTA (ten raids) ...	...	Slightly damaged.
17—2—41. (Monday.)			
	BRITAIN.		
	DAY:—		
	East ANGLIAN Coast ...	3 planes.	...
	NIGHT :—		
	LONDON and surrounding areas and EAST ANGLIA, North-east Coast town.	...	A few killed. Slight damage.

SIDE LIGHTS.

The stage set. EUROPE is like a gigantic boxing-ring. The self-announced 'favourite' stalks ferociously round the ropes, every now and then making in inward dart to show from how many points he can attack. In the centre, his grim, confident opponent watches him warily, parrying here and throwing in a blow there. In each corner sit the 'seconds', some bragging and barracking, others going quietly but determinedly about their business of keeping their champion equipped and tireless. The first two rounds, to the surprise of the onlookers went definitely against the 'favourite', but he is still colossally strong and rampant, and means to finish off the affair in this round at any cost. But the odds have changed, and a few more jolts such as the big fellow received earlier will swing expectations in favour of the man in the middle, who, as the spectators note, looks surprisingly fit and hard. He has grown in 'condition', his muscles ripple and gleam, his breathing is even and controlled and the weight behind each blow appreciably increases.

When will they 'Mix It'? To continue the simile a sentence or so longer the Nazis, after their maulings in the Battle of BRITAIN, in ALBANIA and in AFRICA, are now sparring feverishly for an opening, searching for any means however costly, however vast and intricate, that may prevent the war becoming a matter of which side can last longest.

And so, on a huge perimeter stretching from the BOSPHORUS to the SHETLANDS, they threaten and intrigue, they mass troops and collect transport –and aver and deny in alternate breaths their own aims and the fears of neutral or occupied countries, the anti-human activities of BRITAIN, and BRITAIN's capacity for offering any serious resistance at all!

Yet it looks as if a multiple assault on an unheard-of scale is actually imminent. Mr. Churchill says it is, and he ought to know. And reading between the lines, it looks as though he welcomes the fact, and students both of history and of strategy would undoubtedly bear him out. For there are two inescapable factors in the situation :—

(i) To bring off so grandiose a scheme, Hitler ought to have command of the air, and at least a reasonable equality at sea. He has neither. The R. A. F. has already been tried, and won its laurels, and it is *greatly* reinforced since that first trial. At sea, the British Navy remains supreme, and daily grows in strength.

(ii) As German power sprawls across the continent of EUROPE, their military and administrative resources have to be thinned out correspondingly, and the burden of keeping down hostile populations grows disastrously.

Petain's obduracy. For weeks now our hair has been made to stand on end with threats of what is to happen to FRANCE, unless she aligns herself at once with the Axis and against her quondam ally. Well, if she were to, it would not mean much more than another hostile population in another large territory to be 'administrated' by GERMANY, because—as Marshal Petain very well knows,—the French colonial territories are on the other side of a 'British' sea, and so can the French Fleet be, if necessary. In fact Unoccupied FRANCE is in a better situation than any other government hitherto bullied by Hitler, and the fact that Petain has stood out for six months already, shows both the innate strength of the Marshal's position, and the miscalculation of the Germans in July last. They had reckoned that possession of the northern seaboard of EUROPE, from NORWAY to the Bay of Biscay, would be sufficient to bring BRITAIN to heel, whereas they now disclose that they MUST have the Mediterranean as well, and that in a hurry almost amounting to panic, because of the rapidly growing American help to BRITAIN.

Hunger and want. The infliction of famine, or near-famine, conditions upon non-combatants is, ethically considered, an anti-social proceeding, and German propaganda is making the very most of the results of the British Blockade (according to them) upon the populations of various 'occupied' European countries. Notable humanitarians, generally led by the American Mr. Hoover, listen to these accounts with more sympathy than they give to most of Dr. Goebbels' ethical dialectics. They are letting their hearts deceive their minds.

(i) The Germans have never concealed their intention to exploit conquered countries. Hitler's own speeches talk of the "tremendous possibilities" in so doing.

(ii) Their methods are pure brigandage, of the most expeditious sort. Enormous quantities of supplies are 'requisitioned'; they are 'paid for' in German marks, which are worthless outside GERMANY, and equally worthless for re-purchase of necessities inside GERMANY, for she will never let essentials go. Belgian or other traders therefore are left with empty godowns and shops, and 'money' which is useless for replenishing them.

(iii) Apart from having to maintain German armies of occupation— an enormous tax on any country—German rations are much higher than those allowed to the inhabitants, and rates of exchange into a useless currency fixed most inequitably in favour of the troops. In fact it is a case of the maximum of despoliation in the minimum of time.

(iv) The Germans may well have known that this is a 'short-term' policy; it would have been a highly efficient means of keeping the victim an amenable member of the New Order (when established); it created no financial difficulties (at the time), and by reducing the scale of living, made it easier to induce conquered inhabitants to migrate for work and better conditions, to GERMANY.

But, **this high-minded theory was based on a speedy victory over England.** Adjustments—to ameliorate the savage resentment which want and hunger bring to the most humble of victims, could be made under the New Order. That victory has not materialised. So when Mr. Hoover trumpets that the Belgians cannot survive on their present food ration, alleged to be only one third of that in GERMANY or BRITAIN, and that major food supplies will fail altogether in another month, the whole German propaganda machine is turned on to blaming the British blockade, and 450,000 tons of potatoes and 100,000 tons of sugar (we may justifiably wonder about the *quality* though admittedly starving people would hardly wait to) are railed back to occupied territories to show how magnanimous the Nazis are.

The truth. However hungry, the peoples of these unfortunate realms cannot be really deceived. The very fact of their stripped condition has made them increasingly bitter, and the blindest of them know that—

(1) German relief measures are merely the return of a small proportion of the inferior part of their own produce, sent to stave off revolt and provide specious propaganda;

(2) Food shortage in the occupied countries results solely from German exploitation;

(3) Under British arrangements foodstuffs have been already accumulated for despatch to occupied countries **as soon as it is certain that such foodstuffs cannot reach the enemy.**

(4) The British blockade is **directed against the Germans. Britain simply cannot afford to allow provisions into occupied territories** when it will serve to increase the supplies (and remember

that many 'foodstuffs' are also 'munitions') which the Germans can remove from those territories, or to nourish labourers impressed into German service.

Hot air. I don't know whether Gas can be so described, but Colonel Knox's evidence, before the Committee of the House of Representatives in Washington, has made too much of a sensation. He suggested that in the 'forthcoming invasion' (?) the Germans contemplated the use of gas—as if that would be the last straw to break the Britisher's back.

It is as well to consider one or two points in the context of this pronouncement—

(*a*) The Lease and Lend Bill is a party measure, despite the fact that it has most of American opinion behind it. In another words, Col. Knox wished to impress the public with the utmost of the dangers that must affect BRITAIN (and AMERICA) should this Bill fail to get through. It was 'evidence', and not a proof that the Germans *will* use gas;

(*b*) It is quite certain that in their 'invasion' last July, the Germans were not deterred by any humanitarian feelings, when they kept their gas in its cylinders.

(*c*) All nations have supplies of gas, and are defensively armed against it. There has always, since the very outbreak of war, been the possibility of one or the other or both sides, using it. Hence, gas-masks by the million in every threatened country.

(*d*) The fact that the protagonists *haven't* used gas points to there being less military value in its use than is commonly realised.

(*e*) It is a game that two can play at; hence the German hesitation to use the filthy stuff. The Italians had no retribution to fear when they shrouded Abyssinian villages in it.

THE VOICE OF THE OCCUPIED COUNTRY

HOW NORWAY CARRIES ON THE FIGHT
FAITH OF PREMIER IN ALLIED CAUSE
SEA-FARING NATION'S WILL TO BE FREE
REBUILDING THE WORLD AFTER THE WAR

by

T. A. Raman.

"NORWAY has but one programme to-day", said His Excellency Johan Nygardsvold, the Norwegian Prime Minister, when he received me.

"That is to liberate the country from foreign rule and rid her of Quisling and his men who have sold Norway into slavery.

"In that one purpose, all Norwegians, regardless of station or previous party affiliations, are united.

"We are continuing here with our utmost resources to help Britain towards that victory which alone can restore freedom to us.

"The bulk of our contribution is our merchant fleet of no less than 4,000,000 tons and its personnel of 30,000 sailors.

"On land we have forces in training in Great Britain—men who help to defend Britain now and hope one day to compose the spearhead of the offensive which will liberate Norway. Norwegians from all over the world still come in to join these forces. In Iceland we have Ski Troops and our troops in Canada include hundreds of pilots.

"The Government has bought several planes for them.

"Not very striking, perhaps", added the Prime Minister modestly, "but as much as a small country of 3,000,000 people, betrayed and assailed without any warning, could make."

It was hardly necessary to ask M. Nygardsvold about the morale of the people "The hatred felt by Norwegians to day could only be compared", he said "with the passions of the religious wars of old and our faith in the ultimate victory of our cause remains unshaken.

"I cannot, of course, reveal the full story of the struggle our people are putting up in a country where all the key positions are held by the Germans, and in which have been quartered larger armed forces than ever before in Norway's history.

"Incidents, such as the recent resignation of all the judges of the Norwegian Supreme Court in protest against Nazi interference with their judicial independence, are only symptomatic. Norway's youth is naturally most demonstrative and comes most often into clashes with

the Germans, but the older men too are solidly with them.

"The overwhelming majority of the population watches with shame and contempt Quisling's desperate effort to govern the country in Germany's interest.

"Most Norwegians turn a deaf ear to the noisy German propaganda, and organise their own methods of spreading news derived mainly from London broadcasts. The Norwegian news from London is remarkably popular. Threats and imprisonment have done nothing. It is being heard, if not distributed."

The Premier showed me a typical chain letter, one of thousands which circulate the news and the programme of passive resistance.

In their daily life Quisling and his supporters are treated as lepers. "Freeze the traitors," and "Down with the louse" are the shouts which greet them in the streets. Obstacles are created in every possible way, even the shops which supply them are boycotted.

Their associates are constantly reminded that there will be a day of reckoning. Many of these men are reduced to a state of nervous breakdown, and some who joined at first have dropped out being unable any longer to endure public persecution. Bank notes are pencilled on their backs with "Long Live the King" and "Down with the Germans and Quislings." Old silver coins bearing the portrait of the King are sold at a premium—two ordinary kroner for an old half-kroner piece.

Railway wagons roll through the country with loyal inscriptions scrawled over them. Street fights and demonstrations are continually taking place. Quisling and the German Commissars meet these with assaults and imprisonment, but the country only demonstrates all the more.

"The winter nights are cold and long in Norway," said M. Nygardsvold slowly, "and hold many dangers for the nerves and bodies of these uninvited guests and self-established hosts."

"Have people recovered complete confidence in the ultimate Allied victory ?" I asked.

M. Nygardsvold assured me that all his reports speak of the fullest faith in the downfall of Germany.

"There was indeed," he said "a period immediately after the British withdrawal when pessimism reigned; and when France fell the Norwegians realised that such a blow was unavoidable. The recent British successes in Libya, the Greek victories, and the utter failure of Germany's much advertised invasion plan, have heartened them beyond measure.

"Our people realise that Norway's battle is being waged in other lands, and in other seas, and that every bomb on Germany is a blow for Norway's liberation."

Referring to German talk of a "New Order," the Premier said "Norway has no need to study German literature on the subject. She sees it at work.

"The Norwegians understand only too well the German ideal of a New Europe. It is nothing more or less than the systematic ravaging of a number of vassal States in the midst of whom Germany squats, the all-eating Herrenvolk spider. To mention only some aspects of the daily depredations going on, most of the meat, butter and eggs in the country has been requisitioned by the Germans, and no less than 1,000,000,000 Kroner have been withdrawn already from banks in Norway for the expenses of the German army of occupation.

"For 126 years," continued the Premier, "Norway has been an entirely peaceful country, nursing the illusion that her corner of the world would be immune from any clash of the Great Powers.

"She devoted all her energies, therefore, to the arts of peace, and attained a high degree of culture and social progress. Mentally and materially she was unprepared for the blow that befell her. But the will for independence of her people has by no means been sapped by years of peace, as Germany is finding out to her cost today."

Answering my questions about post-war reorganisation, M. Nygardsvold pointed out that Norway's economic link has always been with the Western Powers. To a sea-faring nation, absorption in any continental bloc would spell economic ruin.

"The nations to whom we have most firmly been bound are the peoples with the same traditions of liberty and democracy as ourselves—Great Britain and the greatest association of free people—the British Commonwealth.

In London today, while we labour to achieve victory, we are also laying the basis of that close political co-operation which will help free men all over the world to rebuild a world where there will be political and economic security alike to small and great powers,"

ALL BRITAIN'S LABOUR POWER TO BE MOBILISED

PLANS TO REPLACE MEN NEEDED FOR ACTIVE SERVICE

TRANSFER OF WORKERS FROM LESS VITAL INDUSTRIES

MORE AGE GROUPS TO BE CALLED UP

by

Oswald Dutch.

THE British Government is now intent on mobilising all available labour power. A series of orders is to be issued which will bring Britain's entire economic system within the war scheme.

In the House of Commons last week Mr. Ernest Bevin, the Minister of Labour, outlined a programme. Since then far reaching negotiations with employers and employees have clarified Government's economic plan for the complete mobilisation of industry.

There are two main objectives to the plan, to provide vastly increased numbers of men for the armed forces, and to ensure that the industrial machinery runs smoothly and to full capacity. The two measures must interlock. Expansion of the armed forces must not be prejudiced because too many workers are exempted from military service, and the whole industrial production must not be obstructed by a lack of skilled or unskilled workers.

The problem will be solved on the one hand by the transference of labour from less vital production to war industries, and on the other hand far more women will be employed.

So far Britain's armed forces have absorbed about 3,000,000. A further 1,500,000 will be soon mobilised by the calling up of all age groups from 19 to 41.

In addition, a considerable number previously exempted as "indispensable" will be declared dispensable and called up for service with the Forces. Others must be appointed to replace them. Industry will have an opportunity to train reserves, so that on the day when skilled workers are called up other trained forces will promptly spring into the breach.

CLASSIFICATION OF TRADES.

For these reasons, all trades and professions are to be classified in essential and non-essential groups. The former will comprise the sŏ-called "national industries"—direct war industries and certain subsidiary trades, agriculture and the most important sections of the export trade. All these will come under state supervision. Workers and employees will no longer be able to change their employment without obtaining the consent of the State. Working hours, minimum pay and management will also come nnder Government control.

All other branches of industry will then, as less essential to the war economy, have to release employees for national industries. In all, some 8,000,000 to 10,000,000 men are probably employed in the non-essential groups. It is reckoned that about 2,500,000 to 3,000,000 of these could be released for the fighting services and for national industries. This is one reserve which can be called on in the mobilising of industry.

Another, and highly important, reserve consists of those who have never had regular employment other than house-work. As regards the unemployed, although official statistics place the number at about 700,000, it was recently stated by Mr. Bevin that this source had been practically exhausted. It is composed largely of fluctuating labour forces, who draw only unemployment pay while changing from one job to another, and of workers with no qualifications at all. At best, the latter could only supply a reserve for less vital industries.

MILLIONS OF WOMEN WORKERS.

At the outbreak of war the British labour force was estimated at about 23,000,000 to 23,500,000. Lately the figure has been sharply increased by the addition of a very large number of women, who had previously only worked in their homes, and who have now taken up factory or office work. In this way Britain's potential labour force has risen to about 26,000,000.

If these sources do not suffice to provide the necesssry labour power, then Government have resolved on an even more extensive transfer of labour from less vital work in war industries, at the same time conscripting those people who previously did no work at all. Provision has been made for the industrial registration of eight age-groups. Such a record will not only show clearly all the reserves available, but will also help in their distribution. In all 11,000,000 to 12,000,000 men and women will be needed for the armed forces and national industries, and their selection will be greatly eased by this age-group registration.

SATISFACTORY EXCHEQUER RECEIPTS.

The mobilisation of production follows directly on that of financial resources. How far increased taxation and duties had strengthened the Exchequer position since the outbreak of war was already abundantly clear by the first week of January. During the first two weeks of the year Government receipts amounted to approximately £ 147,000,000. Thus in 14 days, the revenue totalled approximately one-fifth of the entire receipts from April to December 1940 (totalling £ 720,000,000). It is true that January is always the most important revenue month, but this year the figures are quite astonishing. As a result, the Government's demand for bank credits has been very much reduced.

Receipts from savings are also highly satisfactory. Two new loans ($2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent War Bonds 1946—48 and 3 per cent Savings Bonds) brought in £ 53,900,000 in the first three weeks of the New Year, showing the anticipated good results.

"Small savings" have again risen, bringing in over £ 10,000,000 in the third week of January. In the first three weeks of January small savings provided £ 29,200,000, as opposed to only £ 17,700,000 in the corresponding period of 1940.

TYPICAL AMERICAN REACTIONS TO HITLER'S SPEECH

JAMES W. GERARD WANTS U. S. TO DECLARE WAR

VIEWS OF LEADING ISOLATIONISTS

SUPPLEMENTING President Roosevelt's renewed pledge to Lord Halifax of ever-increasing aid for Britain, the following comments typify American reactions to Hitler's speech :—

Col. Frank Knox, U. S. Navy Secretary : "I would rather die fighting Hitler than live under his rule. Britain occupies the firing-line and we cannot afford now to stop and bicker and trade. We can afford to be generous to a fault. If we fail to give Britain unlimited assistance we shall all go down together. We must not fail." (From a report of an address at Chicago).

Mr. Sumner Welles, United States Under Secretary of State : "The so-called 'New Order' of the Axis would merely be a return to the Stone Age, with civilisation reverting to barbarism. An Axis victory would mean

changing control of the Atlantic from friendly hands to powers seeking world domination. A negotiated peace wouldn't be worth the paper on which it is written." (From a report of a speech at New York).

Senator Carter Glass at Washington: "I think we ought to start the torpedoing first. Hitler doesn't scare me a bit. I'd rather be a corpse than a poltroon.

"I certainly favour convoys and sending our ships anywhere we can under the international law, and I favour shooting to hell anyone who interferes with them."

And even the Isolationist Senator Gerald Nye:

"It is just what you would expect from that sort."

James W. Gerard, American Ambassador to Germany in the last war, told the committee of the Senate that he favoured an immediate declaration of war on Germany, even though he did not believe it to be necessary now.

He argued that Germany's first goal after a complete victory over Europe would be an attack on America.

He recalled his conversations with Admiral von Tirpitz, Lord High Admiral in the Kaiser's day, whom he quoted as saying: "We'll sail for America to collect from that fat, rich and degenerate nation the expenses of the war."

Mr. Gerard told Senator Hiram Johnson, the leading Isolationist, that he would rather die on his feet than surrender or appease.

He said to Johnson: "I would rather die on my feet in this country than live under a dictatorship. The Germans hate us like poison."

Mr. Gerard concluded: "It is wishful thinking to expect a revolution in Germany or Italy. Also Germany cannot be starved out."

The *New York Post* said of Hitler's speech: "This is really no new threat to America, but the way it is phrased makes it clear that Hitler hopes that the American people will be frightened; there he has the makings of a quarrel."

NAZI WAR AIMS.

"GERMAN MINISTER'S APPALLING CANDOUR".

If anything further were needed to convince the world of what the Nazis aim to make of it, it has been provided out of a German mouth, and the mouth of a Minister at that. "*Please do not interpret the word 'slave' as a parable or rhetorical term*", said the German Agriculture Minister Darré to a group of high Party officials early last May. "*We actually have in mind*", he went on with naked simplicity, "*a modern form of* **mediaeval slavery**, *which we must and will introduce because we urgently need it to fulfil our great tasks*".

The publication of this speech in the well-known American magazine *Life* on December 9 gave Dr. Goebbels, busy with a publicity campaign for the "New Order", a nasty headache. Unable to suppress the leakage, he addressed angry denunciations and denials by radio to India, where at that time nothing was known of Darré's appalling candour. Now the full text has reached this country, and we can read that in the new German living-space (which according to Darré was to begin with "two continents with the exception of Soviet Russia", to be conquered by *Blitzkrieg* by autumn 1940) "*all soil and industrial property of inhabitants of non-German origin will be confiscated without exception*".

Who will get it? The Germans—primarily, of course "worthy members of the Party, and soldiers decorated for bravery". They are to form the "aristocracy" of the New Order of which we have heard so much. "*This aristocracy will have slaves assigned to it. These slaves will be their property and will consist of landless non-German nationals*". Further details of the power-drunk plan hardly matter. We have the simple German word for it: slavery, just that.

To defeat and prevent that expressed ambition is the great task before us. It is Britain's first war aim, and America recognises and supports it. Only upon this victory can the world's peace aims be built. Nevertheless, the silent social revolution which is taking place in Britain, the steady crystallisation of free men's intentions for a better world, has already caused nervousness in Berlin. Hitler betrayed it in his wild charges against conditions in Britain, and his equally wild boasts of the people's paradise under Nazidom. The Berlin radio, following its master's voice, betrays it again in a desperate attempt to force the world's belief by sheer weight of words.

Speaking in London on January 28, "in the lull before the great battle" Mr. Harold Nicolson looked forward to a system in which "there will be no

slave states but a community of free peoples each working out its problems in accordance with its temperament and traditions". Nothing could be more characteristic of the Nazis than their reaction to this statement.

Here is what they broadcast on January 31, using a harassed neutral as cover: "Mr. Harold Nicolson's official outline of the new political order in Europe, as drafted by Whitehall and the editorial staff of the *Times*, has caused an outburst of indignation in Sweden. Even the most pro-British newspapers and politicians express their complete disapproval of the British scheme to dominate Europe".

Under the Nazi way of things we should all presumably have to listen to this sort of nonsensical falsification and to nothing else. But it seems that nobody would have to read it. "*These slaves*", Darré has explained, "*will by no means be denied the blessings of illiteracy. Higher education will in future be reserved only for the German population*".

GERMANY'S LABOUR PROBLEM
FOREIGN WORKERS IN THE REICH
METHODS OF CONSCRIPTION AND PERSUASION
"HEALTHY CAPITALISM" IN NATIONAL SOCIALISM.

A Special Correspondent writes in ***Sunday Times***:

THERE are signs that the labour problem in Germany is acute. By the end of December the figure of registered unemployment had decreased from 63,000 to 32,000 of whom only 10 per cent. were available for work. Foreign labour "imported" from the occupied territories and the forced labour of war prisoners is not sufficient to cover the increased demand for workers.

There are no exact figures available of foreign workers, but Dr. Syrup has stated in an article in the *Deutsche Verwaltung* that the number had increased from about 500,000 at the beginning of the war to 1,100,000 by the end of 1940; and this figure is steadily increasing from month to month. The greatest number came from Poland. According to the latest estimates nearly 500,000 Poles are working in Germany; next come the Czechs with over 110,000; then the French from Alsace with 100,000. Belgium and the Netherlands have also supplied 100,000 workers each. In addition, 1,000,000 prisoners of war are made to work.

Foreign labour is to become a permanent feature of the German economy. The *Schwartze Korps* writes that after the war Germany will use more foreign labour than now and "it is obvious that in more responsible and difficult but also better paid technical and skilled work preference ought to be given to German workers. Let foreign workers be used for unskilled work. It is quite wrong that Poles should be doing skilled work and Germans merely carting bricks and breaking stones".

The same idea was expressed by Herr Kehrl, a high official of the Reich Economics Ministry, in a speech at Brunswick (quoted from the *Munchener Nueste Nachrichten*): "Within the Greater German spaces the German worker will be used only for the high forms of work, which means that he will get the highest wages enabling him to have the highest possible standard of living".

Meantime German workers, however, are labouring under the most difficult conditions. The system of conscription of labour is one means of pressure applied against any workers expressing even the slightest dissatisfaction with prevailing conditions of work and pay.

Women's labour is being introduced on a larger scale than ever before. The idea that woman's place is at home has lost its value in Germany, and even housewives with large families are urged to go to work. To facilitate work by women with household duties, the system of half-day shifts was introduced.

Two recent announcements in the foreign Press showed that the German National Socialists have nothing to learn from the capitalist imperialism which they are supposed to abhor. The Swedish *Nya Dagligt Allehanda* reports that a new company has been formed in Berlin to exploit the aluminium resources of Norway with the title of Nordiska Aluminium and 20,000,000 marks capital. The founders, it is reported, are "mainly people interested in the aircraft industry".

At the same time "a close linking up of the metal working industries of Germany and France" is reported in Vichy as being now under discussion. French industrial circles are said to expect a strong revival of activity from this "co-operation" in the German war effort on grounds that "Germany is still suffering from a lack of workmen, while French industry has so far been unable to cope with unemployment". Germany is said to be willing to barter raw materials for French labour. It is clear that, with Germany in control of raw materials and labour supplies, the French industries would be in a completely subordinate position.

It seems that the favourite means employed by the Germans to secure control of particular firms in the occupied territories is to arrange for banks to call in their loans which the firms are probably unable to meet at short notice. It is then suggested to them that they need more capital to prevent any recurrence of such difficulties and a German partner is then produced to provide the necessary extra capital in sufficient quantities to secure for the Germans the control of the firm.

An important part of the German long term economic plant is the **control of industry and capital throughout Europe**. The *Frankfurter Zeitung* recently spoke of the healthy national instinct of acquisition in foreign policy corresponding in internal politics to the healthy capitalist system. The healthy capitalist system is one of the properties of National Socialism which can be, and is, exported.

DETAILS OF IRON GUARD RISING

HORRIBLE STORY OF MASSACRE

MEN, WOMEN AND CHILDREN BURNT ALIVE

*The **Daily Telegraph's** Sofia Correspondent cables:*

I believe this is the first eye witness account to reach the outside world of the Iron Guard horror in Rumania. It was necessary for me to come to Sofia to send out details of the revolution because the Bucharest censorship refused to pass anything but milk-and-water versions of the insurrection.

The tale is one of unrelieved horror—a record of fiendish brutality without precedent in the history of Rumania and with very few precedents in the history of any other country.

Between 4,000 and 6,000 persons were killed in Bucharest alone while the death toll for Rumania as a whole was somewhere between 9,000 and 12,000.

These are conservative estimates based on conversations with competent military and police officials and surgeons who have no reason to exaggerate the magnitude of the slaughter.

Of the 4,000 or more lives lost in Bucharest, approximately 3,000 were rebel Guards, 600 soldiers and 1,400 civilians.

At least 1,000 of the latter were Jews who were murdered by one Iron Guard Army while another battled with the khaki-clad Rumanian army in the centre of the city.

Dozens of Jews—women and children as well as men—were literally burned alive. I am not speaking of those burned to death in hundreds of buildings to which rebel Guards set fire but only of those who were beaten senseless in the streets, robbed, then doused with petrol and set on fire.

Trusted friends have told me and officials have confirmed the statement that there were dozens of cases of sadistic mutilations.

Perhaps the most horrifying single episode of the pogrom was the "kosher", the butchering of more than 200 Jews in the municipal slaughter-house.

There the green-shirts forced them to undress, led them to chopping blocks where they cut their throats in a horrible parody of the traditional Jewish methods of slaughtering fowls and livestock.

Tiring of this sport after few scores had thus been despatched 40 to 50 armed legionaries mad with hate beheaded the rest with axes and knives.

The only other episode comparable with the slaughter-house massacre, in point of numbers only, was the mass execution in a field near Jilava Prison of 160 Jewish leaders who had been imprisoned in the office of the Jewish community at Caleadudesti.

Examples of Misleading Statements in Enemy Broadcasts to India and the Near East for the period February 3—9, 1941.

A.—BROADCASTS IN ENGLISH.

THE MIXTURE AS BEFORE.

NOW that air warfare has been resumed over Western Europe, following the recent lull due to bad weather, it is interesting to notice that the Nazi radio has returned to its attempts of last year to magnify the activities of the *Luftwaffe* and to minimize the achievements of the R. A. F. The last few days have seen many instances of this lying technique in action.

To begin with, Berlin broadcast on February 3 a most circumstantial account of "a heavy Nazi raid on London on the night of Thursday, January 30." It took the form of an interview with a young German airman alleged to have participated in the attack. There was a graphic description of Goering's youthful heroes, at seven o'clock in the evening, donning their heavy winter flying kit—including overalls with fur-lined boots, leather cap, breathing apparatus, swimming suit and leather gloves; then came "a hearty dinner", a drive to the aerodrome and, eventually, the flight to London amid a hell of anti-aircraft shells and searchlights. "Blood-red fires gleamed through the clouds over London" as the airmen listened to the explosions of their heavy bombs before roaring homewards at 15 degrees below zero.

Apart from the difficulty of eating a heavy dinner while clad in leather cap, breathing apparatus and swimming suit, and the impossiblity of hearing above the noise of one's engines the explosions of bombs many thousands of feet below, this account might have been convincing—if there had been any raids on London on the night of Thursday, January 30. **But, alas, there were no enemy aircraft at all over London, or any other part of Britain, on that night!**

ANOTHER "BRITISH PLOT"

The recent clashes in Johannesburg between South African soldiers and extreme anti-war Nationalists are declared by the Rome radio (February 3) to have been "purposely originated by the British in order to justify their quelling with violence any attempt by the Boers to demonstrate their anti-war feelings." But Rome forgets that it **is the Union Government, and not the British, which is in power in South Africa**, and that it was the Boer Prime minister, General Smuts, who rebuked the troops for their unauthorised action against the traitors in their midst, while at the same time admitting they had suffered "frequent provocation."

Fascist Italy is naturally unable to understand that General Smuts, though the leader of South Africa's great war effort, must nevertheless see to it that civil law and order is preserved in the democratic state of which he is Premier. The world will note, however, that the Union's Premier has since published the National Security Regulations, designed to prevent those subversive, pro-Axis activities which have aroused the indignation of loyal South African citizens and soldiers.

A NEW USE FOR OLD RIOTS

Meanwhile, the Germans have seized on these Rand riots to enable them to lend a propagandist hand to their weaker Axis partners. On February 6, Berlin "revealed" that the serious disturbances reported from Northern Italy a fortnight ago were "concocted by the British" to distract attention from the Johannesburg disturbances. Their ingenious discovery leaves out of account the fact that the Italian riots were reported on January 26, whereas those in South Africa did not break out until January 31!

Perhaps Berlin and Rome will now work out between them just why the British should concoct stories of Italian riots in order to distract attention from British-inspired South African riots which, in any case, didn't occur until nearly a week after the Italian ones!

In any case, the reports of anti-German, anti-Mussolini and anti-war disturbances in Northern Italy did not come from British sources, but were sent to New York by two *bona fide* American journalists in Belgrade—who were later subjected to mild "disciplinary measures" by the Yugoslav Government acting under strong Axis pressure. **Moreover the Yugoslavs, while reprimanding the American reporters for sending out the stories, did not deny the truth of them.**

COVENTRY AGAIN

On February 9, the German wireless quoted an article in the *Berliner Boersen Zeitung* by a *Luftwaffe* general, who alleges that the Nazi attacks on Coventry must have had a disastrous effect on Britain's aeroplane output. More than 500 tons of bombs were dropped on Coventry in a single night, boasts the general, and "it is obvious that it is impossible for Britain to continue her manufacture of warplanes according to plan."

Quite apart from the fact that Coventry is neither the only or the chief centre of aircraft manufacture in Britain, it is worth recalling that Mr. Ben Robertson, London correspondent of the New York paper *P. M.*, said in America last month that German bombers had done comparatively little damage to British indutry.

"The Coventry story," he added, "was censored, but not because of the amount of damage. It was censored because of the lack of damage."

Germany must indeed be hard up for "pep" propaganda, both for home and outside consumption, if she is forced to fall back on the destruction of Coventry's cathedral, churches, shops, hospitals and civilian homes as evidence of the *Luftwaffe's* victory over Britain's war industry.

B.—BROADCASTS IN ASIATIC LANGUAGES.

ANOTHER RED HERRING

In its Hindustani bulletin of February 7, the Italian radio produces another red herring by telling the world that the British working classes are urging the Government to conclude peace with the Axis powers, and are threatening to go on strike if their demand is not met. Apart from the fact that **since the war started, the number of strikes and lockouts in Britain has been the lowest on record**, the British workers' point of view was defined by Mr. Will Lawther, President of the Mine-workers' Federation of Great Britain, as long ago as August 1940. He said: "**The Fascists will only enter this island over our dead bodies.**" He added that British workers regarded the situation as if a gas explosion had overtaken their comrades in Europe, and their lives had to be saved from the Fascist poison gas. "Let it be clear, plain and unmistakeable that the view of every section of the British Labour movement is that we fight on until not a trace of the Fascist remains. It is a crusade we have sworn to see through to the end."

NAZI WAR AIM

On February 5 the Berlin radio complained that Britain intended first to win the war, and to enumerate her war aims afterwards.

Germany's war aim was very clearly defined by her Agriculture Minister, Darré who, addressing a group of high Party officials in May 1940, remarked: **"We have in mind a modern form of mediæval slavery, which we must and will introduce because we urgently need it to fulfil our great social tasks."**

R. A. F. VERSUS LUFTWAFFE

On February 6 the German radio proudly announced that "it has been made clear to the world that the R. A. F. is no comparison to the *Luftwaffe*." Whatever the Nazi radio has to say about the superiority of the German air power, the world has seen that **during 1940 the Nazi losses in raids over Britain numbered 2,993, while the losses of British fighters over Britain numbered 837,**

and on the Western Front and in France the British lost 375 machines against the Germans' 945. Furthermore, during January 1941, when Hitler's decision to help Mussolini in the Mediterranean has forced the *Luftwaffe* to fight on two fronts, **the German losses over that sea have been 184 machincs, against Britian's 14.**

DIGGING FOR VICTORY

The German wireless declared on February 5 that "the blockade of Britain is being vigorously carried out" and, to prove its point, we were informed that England is being forced to turn playgrounds into fields. England, however, is making this drive to grow as much of her agricultural produce at home as possible, not because she is forced to do so by the so-called German blockade, but because by so doing, **her ships, which ordinarily would have brought her foodstuffs, can bring war material instead.**

TAIL-PIECE

Says the Rome radio, February 7 :— "It is obvious to any sane person that the British are bent up on fighting this war to the last Greek". "To the last Italian" might have been nearer the truth.

PROGRAMME OF LECTURES

OF THE

Pudukkottai State War Information Bureau.

1941— **LECTURE XXXII.**—(*Revised*).

February	22, Saturday ...	Town Hall	...	6.30 p. m.
	23, Sunday ...	Poovarasakudi	...	9.15 a. m.
		Venkatakulam	...	9.45 a. m.
		College (A) English	...	10.25 a. m.
		Rani's School	...	10.25 a. m.
		Koppanapatti	...	5.00 p. m.
		Ponnamaravathi	...	5.30 p. m.
	25, Tuesday ...	Muslim Association, Pudukkottai.		5.00 p. m.
	26, Wednesday.	College (B) Tamil	...	10.25 a. m.
		Perungalur	...	5.00 p. m.
		Adanakkottai	...	5.30 p. m.
	27, Thursday ...	C. S. M. School	...	10.00 a. m.
		Arimalam	...	5.00 p. m.
		Kilanilai	...	5.30 p. m.
		Chery School	...	5.30 p. m.

LECTURE XXXIII.

March ...	1, Saturday ...	Town Hall	...	6.30 p. m.
	2, Sunday ...	Kiranur	...	9.30 a. m.
		Nanjur	...	9.45 a. m.
		Tiruvappur	...	5.00 p. m.
	3, Monday ...	College (B) Tamil	...	10.25 a. m.
		Rani's School	...	10.25 a. m.
		Sembattoor	...	5.00 p. m.
		Odayalippatti	...	5.45 p. m.
	4, Tuesday ...	Vayalogam	...	5.00 p. m.
		Annavasal	...	5.30 p. m.
	5, Wednesday.	Panayappatti	...	5.00 p. m.
		Rangiam	...	5.30 p. m.
	6, Thursday ...	Teachers' Association, Pudukkottai.		3.30 p. m.
	7, Friday ...	C. S. M. School	...	10.00 a. m.

Important Notice.

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